

OCT 18 1965

Approved For Release 2004/11/01 : CIA-RDP88-01350R000200640026-8

THE PERISCOPE

DIPLOMATIC POUCH

Top Man in the Viet Cong

Intelligence experts in Vietnam have finally identified the Viet Cong's top military man. Nguyen Chi Thanh, a member of Hanoi's Communist Party hierarchy who holds the rank of four-star general, has assumed over-all direction of the Viet Cong military machinery. At one time, Thanh was chief political commissar of Vo Nguyen Giap's People's Army, the Vietnamese force which defeated France. With him in charge, negotiations to end the war may be more remote than they seem. Reason: Thanh is a "hawk" and a leader of Hanoi's pro-Peking faction.

Adenauer's Blue Pencil

That blistering interview which Konrad Adenauer recently gave to the German newspaper Die Welt would have been even hotter if Der Alte hadn't had second thoughts. As printed, the interview concentrated its attack on the policies of Foreign Minister Gerhard Schroeder. But the former Chancellor had also charged that all of Europe was endangered by what he called President Johnson's "self-deceiving" policy toward Russia. Adenauer asked that the LBJ reference be deleted when he heard that the President was ill.

WASHINGTON WIRE

Moyers Is Looking

Bill Moyers, winning plaudits as White House press secretary, wants to return to his old job as LBJ's jack-of-all-trades. The tipoff: he has been looking for a replacement in the press job.

No Message for de Gaulle

French Ambassador Hervé Alphand, returning to Paris after nine cordial years in Washington, had hoped to take with him some kind of policy message for de Gaulle from either President Johnson or Secretary Rusk. All he got from Mr. Johnson (a few days before the operation) was a fill-in on the health of LBJ's Hereford cattle, the state of the U.S. economy and the success of the Great Society. Rusk had even less to offer: anecdotes about the Pope's New York visit and appreciative comments on the ambassador's ability to mimic famous men. "Can't wait to hear the imitations when you get back to France," Rusk commented.

General vs. Pentagon

Gen. Bernard A. Schriever, chief of the Air Force Systems Command (which develops new missiles and aircraft and considers itself the brains of the service), is hopping mad at the Pentagon for tapping 135 of his pilots for duty in Vietnam. Schriever argues that his men, many of them holders of doctorate degrees, could be put to better use working on advanced Air Force programs like the Manned Orbiting Laboratory and the C-5A jet transport.

INSIDE STORY

Another Look at Vietnam

Henry Kissinger, the Harvard political scientist and longtime analyst of military alliances and global strategy (his latest book, "The Troubled Partnership," is on NATO), has taken on a special mission to South Vietnam. Ambassador Henry Cabot Lodge has invited him to study the Vietnamese political situation and to offer advice on what to do about it.

The President and the Senate

Even as potent a group as the Senate Foreign Relations Committee handles its White House dealings with the utmost care. Last week, for instance, the senators sent LBJ a letter asking him to revoke the order requiring 50% of all American wheat sold abroad to be shipped in U.S. vessels. Newsmen knew of the letter a week before, but kept it to themselves—at the committee's urgent request. Reason: fear that if the news stories beat the letter to the President, it meant good-by revocation.

The Informal Senator

Sen. Robert F. Kennedy has sent ahead an advance man to straighten out a hassle over his schedule when he swings through six Latin American countries next month. The New York senator wants informal, shirt-sleeve meetings with students, labor leaders and the local citizenry, a style he set on previous foreign visits. Some of the U.S. embassies that will play host to Kennedy, however, want him to stick to the protocol-and-banquet circuit.